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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9994
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA PRIORITY
INFO RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC
RUEHZA/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUENMED/BUMED WASHINGTON DC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHDC
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 9048
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0813
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1842
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 1706
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 2041
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3233
RUEHHM/AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY 0033
RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU 0195

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 002403

SIPDIS

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SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EAP/IET, A/MED AND S/ES-O
DEPT FOR OES/FO, OES/EID, OES/PCI, OES/STC AND OES/IHA
DEPT PASS TO USDA/FAS/DLP/HWETZEL AND FAS/ICD/LAIDIG
DEPT ALSO PASS TO USDA/FAS/FAA/DYOUNG AND USDA/APHIS
DEPT ALSO PASS TO USAID/ANE/CLEMENTS AND GH/CARROLL
DEPT ALSO PASS TO HHS/BILL STEIGER AND AMAR BHAT
PARIS FOR FAS/AG MINISTER COUNSELOR
CANBERRA FOR APHIS/DHANNAPEL
ROME FOR FAO
NSC FOR JMELINE
BANGKOK FOR RMO, CDC, USAID/RDM/A

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [AMED](#) [CASC](#) [EAGR](#) [AMGT](#) [PGOV](#) [ID](#) [KFLU](#)
SUBJECT: INDONESIA - FEBRUARY 21 AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATE

REF: Jakarta 2177 and previous

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¶1. (SBU) Summary. Authorities in several Indonesian provinces have announced actions to control Avian Influenza (AI) in birds, including door-to-door inspections, culling and vaccinations, according to press reports. The total number of confirmed human AI cases in Indonesia has risen to 27, with 19 deaths, indicating a mortality rate of 70 percent. NAMRU2 scientists believe there may be larger numbers of mild or asymptomatic human AI cases that are not being reported to health authorities. End Summary.

¶2. (U) Since we transmitted reftel, the Indonesian press has reported announcements by several provincial or city authorities to control AI in birds. Jakarta authorities reportedly plan to send a 600-person team to "scour" residential areas starting February 24, testing birds for AI. Their plan is to kill all birds within a one-kilometer radius of sick birds and vaccinate all birds within an additional three kilometers. The authorities plan to reimburse bird owners 10,000 rupiah (about 1 US dollar) per bird. However, according to February 23 press reports, Jakarta authorities will take 2-3 days to "fully verify" that birds are infected before beginning culling. (Note: The 600-person team will operate within Jakarta city limits only, and will not cover the suburbs east, west, and south

of Jakarta where many of the human AI cases have originated. These suburbs lie in Banten and West Java province. End Note.) Provincial officials in West and Central Java have reportedly bemoaned lack of resources to carry out inspections and vaccinations of birds in these densely populated areas.

Human AI Case Profile

13. (U) NAMRU-2 data indicates the following AI-related case profile as of February 22.

-- Number of laboratory confirmed (positive PCR and/or serology) human AI cases: 27, of which 19 have been fatal (fatality rate of 70 percent).

-- Number of probable AI cases: 5, with 4 deaths (fatality rate of 80 percent).

-- Number of cases awaiting verification by the US CDC: 1.

-- Number of possible AI cases under investigation: approximately 28.

-- Number of excluded AI cases: 193.

14. (U) NAMRU-2 surmises that there may be significant numbers of mild or asymptomatic cases of AI in humans in Indonesia that are not being reported to health authorities. The cases that are brought to the attention of hospitals are usually those in which the disease is advanced. Patients generally report to the hospital at day 5-7 of illnesses, a fact that may explain the high fatality rate of AI in Indonesia.

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15. (SBU) Comment: The number of stories about AI in the Indonesian press has increased noticeably in recent weeks, probably due to the rise in the number of human AI cases in January and February, and to the increased cases of AI world wide. The Jakarta city government's decision to begin a more organized culling and vaccination program is good news, but more forceful follow up actions will be needed to control AI among poultry in the capital. Despite the upswing in public attention to AI, we see no evidence that the Government of Indonesia (GOI) has begun implementing its AI response plan. The Coordinating Ministry for People's Welfare has begun planning to establish a GOI AI "command center" but this entity is not yet official. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture has not shown any intention to assist the provinces, either organizationally or financially, in their efforts to combat AI in birds.

PASCOE